



GIRL TALK

Powder Puffs of California — Serving the California Gender Community Since 1987

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reminder

schedule for OZZ nights:
 saturday, jan. 6 & feb. 3
 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Happy Hour
 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Dinner
 9:00 pm to 1:00 am - Cabaret Show
 with Rudy
 9:00 pm to 2:00 am - Disco

What's Up Doc?

Saturday, January 20th, 1996 Powder Puffs will kick off the new year with a visit from the doctor. Dr. Richard Docter, noted researcher and author of *Transvestites and Transsexuals: Towards a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior*, will be our featured speaker.

As usual, the meeting will be at the Best Western Motel off Pioneer Blvd. in Artesia, and will begin at 7:30 pm. Powder Puffs Prez, DeeGrade, promises to get the new year off to a grand beginning. So, bring your list of questions for the good doctor and let's start the new year off right!

Pathfinders

"Gee, I thought I was the only one," is a statement expressed by many crossdressers. In fact, some clubs have developed to let others know "they are not alone."

However, there is another side to these statements often overlooked by some parts of the crossdressing community. These exact words can also express the feelings and emotions of many wives/partners involved in a transgender-related relationship. They too may often feel that they are "the only ones" and that "they are alone." Many do not know where to turn for help and suffer in silence.

With this in mind, a new group, *Pathfinders*, has developed for wives/partners "to meet with others in the same position," and "to learn about crossgender expression." The group is

open to "all genetic females involved in a transgender-related relationship."

To best grasp what the group is, it is helpful to understand what the group is not. *Pathfinders* is not, in their own words, "a professional therapy group, a crossdresser-bashing forum, an 'auxiliary' to any crossdressers' group, a means of 'brainwashing' wives into model supporters of their crossdressing mates or friends, 'Radical Feminism 101.' The only requirement, apart from being a genetic female, is to pledge to keep all discussions private. Interested? The group meets at 7:00 pm the second Wednesday of each month (January 10th) at:

Polly's Restaurant
 2025 N. Tustin Ave (off the 55
 between Katella and Lincoln)
 Orange County [REDACTED]

Each person is responsible for the cost of their dinner ordered from the menu. While no dues are charged, a \$5.00 donation is requested as *Pathfinders* is self supporting. Questions? Planning to attend? Call Besti R. at [REDACTED] as she needs a head count for the restaurant.

California Dreamin' 96

April 25-28, 1996

in San Francisco!

Contact P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda,
 CA 92686, [REDACTED] E-mail
 Dreamin96@aol.com

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Cyndi Silk (editor), Diane D.

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California Dreamin' 96

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& Workshops

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Membership rates. \$30/yr, \$12/meeting; \$150 covers dues & meetings for entire year. A Renaissance Education Affiliate.



She's Back!

Well, it's a new year, but I guess there's just no getting rid of her. Yes, we all know who I'm talking about, Thomasina Trojan herself, Christine. And for 1996, she has planned a gala event to benefit the AIDS hospices of Southern California.

Christine is looking for contestants for her *Within the Hearts of Gender* talent/beauty pageant and has entry forms available. She has rounded up a large variety of very, very worthwhile prizes for EACH contestant.

Now I know there are many very talented and gorgeous ladies out there. There is an opportunity to "strut your stuff, girl" all the while earning some desirable prizes, ALL DONATED by private businesses, and benefiting a worthwhile cause. We, as a community, really need to help those less fortunate than ourselves and Christine has given us a vehicle to do so while having a good time in the process.

So if you are at all interested or just curious to see the cornucopia of goodies Christine has lined up, give her all call on her pager at [REDACTED].

I Laughed, I Cried, I Couldn't Put it Down

The following is a press release authored by Justine Sahnjay for her new book.

The *Man in the Red Velvet Dress*, by Justine Sahnjay — A significant book on the subject of cross-dressing and the gender community.

That Howard Stern appears cross-dressed on the cover of his latest book, *Miss America*, shows the level of fascination that cross-dressing holds for popular culture. Yet how much do people really know about the topic? Indeed, how many of us would know the difference between a female impersonator and a drag queen?

The Man in the Red Velvet Dress is a book that offers the reader an unparalleled look into the world of cross dressing. Written by the past president of one of

the nation's largest cross-dresser support groups, this book's release could not come at a better time.

Hot on the heels of movies such as *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* and *To Wong Foo, With Love From Julie Newmar*, *The Man in the Red Velvet Dress* fills a huge void by giving answers to the questions that people have about cross-dressing.

Rich in entertaining detail, you'll discover in the book's pages the nine most commonly cited reasons cross-dressers give to explain their behavior; meet the eleven different types of cross-dressers and hear their stories; read about a man who owns 2,100 pairs of panties; ask if a man can truly become a woman; and learn how the modern cross-dressing movement was begun in 1929 aboard a Cunard steamship in the North Atlantic.

The talk shows have only scratched the surface of cross-dressing. To do the topic justice requires an insightful book that takes the reader on a captivating journey through the maze of this most unusual behavior. Destined to be the authoritative popular book on cross-dressing, *The Man in the Red Velvet Dress* is such a book. At \$21.95 in hardback, the book is a must read for anyone who wants to stay at the cutting edge of culture and the male psyche.

Say it Ain't So, Bo

The following was taken from the Verbatim section of The Press-Enterprise, December 12, 1995

Verbatim

Former two-sport star Bo Jackson, currently interested in a movie career, on whether he could give up being a role model and play the bad guy in a film: "I really don't think I'll have a problem with it if I'm making the kind of money Jim Carey's making. I'll dress in drag."

Would any of you dress in drag for the kind of money Jim Carey's making? I'd do for less, in fact I do! — Cyndi

President's Message

by Dee Grady

Southern California TG Groups Celebrate the Holidays Together and Look Forward to an Exciting and Challenging New Year

It maybe, as Jimmy Buffet sang, "Freezing out in Buffalo," but here in Southern California we are working on our tans in balmy 70⁺, SPF-15 weather. Nevertheless, the local weather forecasters keep trying to manufacture big news by telling us just how bad the next rain is going to be. Unfortunately, any incoming storm just fizzles out. But, that didn't stop us from going out and buying a corsage, putting on a new dress, and celebrating the Season with lots of Holiday Cheer.

So, on Saturday, Dec 16th, 77 people from Neutral Corner of San Diego, Born Free of Riverside, and Renaissance Education Associations West Coast affiliate Powder Puffs of California descended *en masse* on the Beverly Garland Holiday Inn, in Studio City, California. The night's festivities were hosted by TRI-ESS Alpha Chapter who deserve a very warm *Thank-you* for their efforts at ensuring all the brightest of holidays. Everyone was dressed-to-the-nines in stunning holiday finery that would make the fashion runways of Paris green with envy. Of particular note was the attendance of two Community pioneers, Carol Becroft and Virginia Prince. Their presence reminded many as to just how far we have come since those days, not so very long ago, of the Hose-and-Heels Club when everyone had to bring a pair of hose and heels, lest anyone be a FBI agent.

Instead in 1995, rather than worry about the FBI, we socialized, we laughed, we danced. The night's festivities included a cocktail hour, dinner, and entertainment by that Dynamic Duo of Mary and Denise who treated us with their music and songs.

Next year, though, it's back to planning meetings, conventions, and outreach. We at Powder Puffs welcome the challenge of the coming year as we take our club into uncharted waters. We will start our first full year as a Renaissance Affiliate, take California Dreamin' on the road to lovely San Francisco, and work to continue providing safe AND FUN gatherings for our members. Hard work? Yes. But it's the kind of work for which many have fought hard and sacrificed much. And on this night of wonder, we celebrated being ourselves with our friends and loved ones. But we took just enough time during this busiest part of the year to reflect on the growth of our Community and give thanks for our good fortune.

Oh, and one more thing! In the spirit of sharing our good fortune with those less fortunate, we collected lots of toys for the needy children of Southern California. The toys were divided up amongst Alpha Chapter, Born Free, and Powder Puffs, for each

club to give to their local children's charities. I took the toys designated for Orange County to one of the local fire department stations where they were collecting them for the Orange County "Toys for Tots" program. Happy New Year! *Dee*

The following was taken from The Press-Enterprise, December 12, 1995

Intimacy

Drs. Marguerite and Marshall Shearer

Cross-dresser may need new drug

Q: My 59-year-old husband is a cross-dresser. And he is constantly sick. The doctors have taken all kinds of tests and can never find anything wrong. he stays in bed all day and watches TV. He's on medication for depression. What can I do to Help?

A: Physical symptoms of a nonspecific nature ("the doctors can never find anything wrong") can be caused by depression. We question if the dosage of his medication is high enough or whether he might benefit more from a different antidepressant.

We also wonder if he is staying home from work so he can indulge in cross-dressing. Other than this conscious or unconscious reason or excuse to stay home, we see no connection between his physical complaints and the cross-dressing.

Dr. Marguerite Shearer is a former family practitioner, now in administrative medicine. Dr. Marshall Shearer, a psychiatrist in Ann Arbor, Mich., specializes in sexual dysfunction. Questions may be sent to them in care of The Press-Enterprise, P.O. Box 792, Riverside, CA 92502-0792

1995: A Year of Transition

By **Melanie Yarborough (Neutral Corner)**

1995 was the decade's midpoint and, ironically, a year of transition for the Transgender Community as well. National and local organizations alike felt the winds of change.

In February, the *First International Congress on Crossdressing, Gender & Sex* in Van Nuys was sponsored by California State University, Northridge. Individuals and organizations from all parts of the transgender spectrum, along with mental health professionals and academics, gathered together under one roof for seminars and getting acquainted. It was seen by many as a definite turning point in the formation of a national consciousness as a community.

The transgender umbrella organization, IFGE, began its crucial restructuring program. Founding director, Merissa Sherrill (*Please see TRANSITION, page 4*)

QUEENSPEAK

by Joan Goodnight

The first annual community Christmas party hosted by Alpha Chapter and held at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Studio City was a rousing success. There was not only great fellowship but the live music featuring Mary and Denise of Downhome Demos & Mary White Entertainment was outstanding.

Spied attending the gala was our host for the evening Kathy Helms with the lovely Sarah, Virginia Prince in a blazing yellow evening number showing lots of cleavage, Kym Richards of Cross Talk publishing fame, Carol Beecroft and Marlene of Tri-Ess National, Arlene and Betsy R. representing Born Free and the Ladies Knight Out, a couple from Neutral Corner whose name I didn't catch, and a contingent from Powder Puffs led by the fearless and indestructible Dee Grady.

Absent from the gala event were any representatives from CHIC. This reporter thought the presentation was so outstanding that we — as a community — should repeat it again next December.

* * *

Men in Dresses - by Dr. Vernon Coleman, M. B., Ch.B., D.Sc

Dr. Coleman is reported to be the United Kingdom's leading medical author and journalist. Dr. Coleman has written for The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Observer and Sunday Times and his Telephone Doctor service attracts between five and ten thousand calls a week.

In this book which is scheduled to be published in February 1996 Dr. Coleman claims that one in ten men choose to dress in women's clothes. "Transvestism is an excellent remedy for stress. It is much safer than drinking, smoking, or taking pills," says the good doctor. "If more physicians recommended crossdressing then the incidence of heart disease and high blood pressure would plummet. It's about time doctors began prescribing silky underwear instead of dishing out prescriptions for tranquilizers" states the author in the press release announcing this new book.

The topics considered in this book include, but are not limited to:

- Why 10% of men dress in women's clothes
- How crossdressing helps men deal with stress
- Crossdressing can start at any age
- Why crossdressing could improve male life expectancy

And much, much more.

The price of the book is \$15.95 (plus \$2.95) for shipping and

handling) Orders may be sent to:

Publishing House
Trinity Place
Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HJ
England
Telephone: 01271 328892
Fax: 01271 328768

* * *

CAVEAT EMPTOR

It was reported in the latest Renaissance News & Views that a couple of the gender community's better known vendors are in serious financial trouble and are contemplating filing for bankruptcy. Potential customers were warned to pay for their purchases with credit cards rather than check or money order in case the products ordered never make it to their doorsteps. If merchandise is not delivered as contracted for at least a consumer has the option of notifying the credit card company and cancelling the purchase transaction. The two companies reported were Vernon's Specialties of Boston, MA and NS Products of Glendale, CA. — Joan

(Transition, continued from page 3)

Lynn, stepped down and Alison Laing became the new director. IFGE members Linda Buten and Laura Caldwell spoke at California Dreamin' in April on mending fences within the community. *Tapestry* magazine was reorganized in terms of content and style. The Atlanta group AEGIS became a membership organization, TRI-Ess achieved 501c non-profit organization status, and the female-to-male group in Oakland became F2M International.

Changes came to Southern California as well. Orange County's Powder Puffs elected Dee Grady to the presidency in July who began a remarkable program of re-energizing the group. Riverside's Born Free held elections in October and incumbent president Gina Ann Glass stepped down. The group's dedicated vice-president, Arlene, moved to the top slot. San Diego's Neutral Corner had its own personnel changes in the vice-presidency, database, librarian, and newsletter editor positions. Los Angeles' Androgyny showed a higher profile by appearing on a televised segment on transsexualism for the *Marilyn Kagan Show*.

Meanwhile, America's fascination with transgenderism continued unabated. The movie *Wigstock*, a documentary on the gay community dragfest held every year in New York City's East Village, hit the silver screen. The much awaited *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything* "came out" in August, and *Dr. Jekyll and Ms Hyde* spoofed an old tale (with a twist). The men's magazine Esquire ran the lengthy article, *The Third Sex*, saying, "The spiritual daughters of Christine Jorgenson are crusading for civil rights, trying to bridge the transgender gap."

(Please see **TRANSITION**, page 8)

Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Women

I was surfing through the television stations with my remote the other night — yeah, I know — how male of me. Anyway, I stopped at a news broadcast that captured my attention. It seems some woman passed away recently and left her money to a university. Not exactly national headline material, I grant you. People die everyday. And some of those leave money to all sorts of people and institutions, as well as their pet dog or goldfish.

No, what made headlines was that this woman was no ordinary woman. She was a former IRS accountant who never rose above a low-to-mid-level position with the government and retired with a \$5000 savings account. Yet by the time she passed away, this you-are-not-qualified-for-a-promotion accountant managed to parlay her \$5000 into \$22 million!

Apparently, throughout her career she felt that she was never promoted to the level of her abilities because she was 1) Jewish, and 2) a woman. At her death, I'd say she had 22 million good arguments to support her case. Nevertheless, she gave her \$22 million to the university she never attended across from her apartment. She wanted to give the young women of Yeshiva University an opportunity she never had.

More news. Just the other day I read where someone got a card from a McDonald's lottery-type game, dropped it in an envelope and sent it to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital — no name, no return address, no note. Oh yes, I forgot to mention, the card was worth \$1 million.

It seems with the government retreating from many of its social programs, a few people have taken it upon themselves to help those less fortunate. In this light, it is worth noting that one group here in the Southland, Born Free, approached the public relations director of Alternatives to Domestic Violence about helping support the Horizon House, a shelter for battered women. At the December 9th meeting, Born Free president, Arlene R. generously presented a check to the Horizon House for \$200 along with several boxes of supplies donated by the membership.

If you could see the list of desperately needed items on the Horizon House's wish list, you could understand just how grateful and needed any support is. Thanks to Born Free, this Christmas the Horizon House will be assured of such *luxuries* as underwear (new bras, slips, panties), toothbrushes, light bulbs, carpet cleaners, batteries, and shampoo. Really neat stuff. Oh yes, some make-up too, after all, Born Free is a transgender group.

While I'm sure the Horizon House appreciates the donation, I believe that Born Free has come out the real winner because of the generous choice they made. All the major religions preach about the need to be unselfish and to give to those less fortunate. These religions know, and psychologist will tell you, that giving is good for the human spirit and needed to fully develop the human personality. I know, most groups operate on slim budgets and it takes everything to support our own needs. But I truly believe that if we, the transgendered community, hope to ever be taken seriously, we must show that we are capable of helping people others than ourselves. Also, if we sincerely hope to fully develop the feminine person inside, we need to reach deeply into our own pocket and give to those who live a more modest existence.

Personally, I could think of no better choice for Born Free to lend its support than a battered women's shelter. Clearly, the spousal abuse problem is a complex societal issue too large for Born Free to solve. But one place to start helping is at the level of women shelters. Whereas it may be impossible for many of us to fully comprehend what is happening in these women's mind and lives, it is worth noting that they do express some familiar emotions, namely fear, embarrassment, wondering where to turn for help, believing they are the only ones. These are things we can understand.

Remember, many of these women arrive at the shelter with only the clothes on their backs. So, when they wake up Christmas morning and find new panties under the tree, they really do appreciate it — something we crossdressers can also understand. *Cyndi Silk*

Calvin and Hobbes



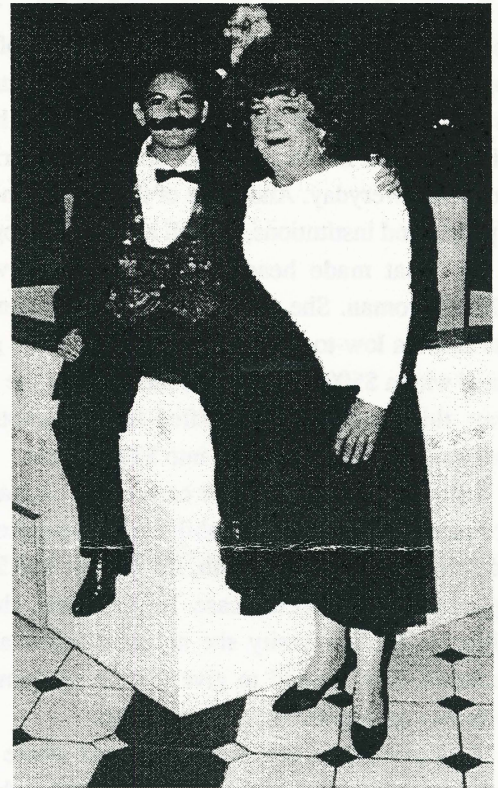
EVIL SANTA WOULD GIVE ALL THE DANGEROUS, ANNOYING, AND CORRUPTING TOYS YOUR PARENTS WON'T ALLOW!



By Bill Watterson



The PPOC Halloween Party



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

PRESS RELEASE

11 December 1995 To SysOps & Forum Admins: Please repost to any appropriate venue.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Second International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender Issues June 19 - 22, 1997 in Suburban Philadelphia, Pa. (King of Prussia). The Second International Congress On Crossdressing, Sex and Gender Issues is co-sponsored by the Human Sexuality Program in the Graduate Department of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and The Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc. The Center for Sex Research at the California State University at Northridge (CSUN), organizer of the first Congress, endorses this second gathering. The Congress will be held at the Park Ridge Hotel in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, USA from June 19 to June 22, 1997. Activities will begin Thursday evening, June 19, with a Welcome Cocktail Reception at the Hotel. The Program will begin at 9:00 AM Friday, June 20, and will conclude on Sunday, June 22 at Noon. Registration fees will be announced at a later date. The Park Ridge Hotel is located in King of Prussia, Pa., about 30 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. The hotel is served by several limousine services for which the cost is about \$US 18. The hotel is located close to Valley Forge National Park and the now-famous King of Prussia Shopping Mall. Rooms rates are \$US 90/single, \$US 100/double (1997 rates) + 8% occup. tax. Free Parking.

INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Themes of Interest: Transgender Behavior in Adolescents * Recent Progress in FtM & MtF Genital Surgery * Gender Identity in The Next Millennium * Diagnoses & Management of Intersexuality * Recent Advances in Hormonal Therapies (MtF & FtM) * Counseling Issues & Methods for Gender Clinics/Team * Recent Findings Regarding Morphological Differences in the Transgender Brain * STDs/HIV in the Transgender Community Format * Three General Morning Sessions: Fri., Sat., Sun. (Jun. 20-22) * Four sets of 50-minute concurrent sessions * Workshops; one and two hour formats (optional) * Each conference day will be structured to provide ample time to attend sessions and conduct general discussions. Meetings and workshops will take place between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Social and business functions will be in the evenings.

Papers

Papers offering research data and theoretical positions are preferred. Experimental work is particularly desired. Clinical material is welcome particularly to illustrate how counseling helps resolve transgender issues.

Workshops

There will be opportunity to present significant material in workshops. Submit topic, length of time required, goals of the workshop, and facilities required for presentation. Workshops will be open to all conference registrants.

HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS/WORKSHOPS

1. Abstracts of papers and workshops must be submitted to one of the Program Committee Co-Chairs: Papers to: Vern Bullough, Ph.D., R.N., 17434 Mayall St., Northridge, CA 91325. Workshops to: Sheila Kirk, M.D., c/o IFGE, 123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154.
2. Abstracts and Workshop Descriptions should contain sufficient information to adequately judge the proposal. Those proposing a workshop are not required to submit an Abstract but rather include information about the format of the workshop, e.g., experiential, demonstration, discussion, et al., and what the workshop will accomplish.
3. Proposals should be typed on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, one side only, double-spaced. Send four (4) copies. Proposals may also be submitted by e-mail to <cngrs2@cdspub.com>.
4. All proposals must include: Title * Author's name * position and/or title * address of affiliation or institution * phone number * Specific area of contribution (educator, therapist, counselor, researcher) * Objectives of presentation * Methodology of presentation * Outline of presentation content * Time needed to make presentation * A list of equipment and aids required: slide projector, overhead projector, chalkboard, newsprint pad, etc. This information should be included even though it may be tentative.

Questions, ideas, or general correspondence may be directed to: JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Phone: [REDACTED], Fax: [REDACTED]; E-mail: <cngrs2@cdspub.com>

Etiquette for Today

By Peggy Post, taken from *Good Housekeeping*, Jan., 1996

Is it proper to put on lipstick at the table in a restaurant? I often do, but my husband says I shouldn't.

The general guideline is that it's inappropriate to put on lipstick when seated in a restaurant; the better etiquette is to excuse yourself and go to the ladies' room. If the restaurant is informal and you can apply the lipstick quickly, however, that's okay. Just avoid looking as if you're primping.

Powder Puffs Rap Sheet

Community Events and Other Happenings — "All Work and No Play Makes Jill a Dull Girl"

On the Local Scene

Places to go, Things to do, People to see.

First Tuesdays

Come Taste the Night at Marlayna's T- Party. Tommy Tang's, 7313 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. Reservations: [REDACTED]

First Fridays

Peal — TS support group, 12832 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, 7:30 pm. Call [REDACTED]

First Saturdays

Powder Puffs Night at the Ozz — 6321 Manchester Blvd., Buena Park [REDACTED]. Time: 6:30pm-2:00am.

Ladies Knight Out (Heterosexual couples in a committed relationship only) for information write to: LKO, P.O. Box 19608-0179, Irvine, CA 92713

Second Saturdays

Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess: Meets at Burbank Holiday Inn. Contact Kathy Helms, [REDACTED] or Virginia Prince, [REDACTED] for information and requirements.

Born Free: University Room of Hampton Inn, 1590 University Ave., Riverside. 8:00 pm. Contact Born Free, P.O. Box 3822, Riverside, CA 92519-3822, [REDACTED] for info.

CHIC: CHIC emphasizes strict security. Meetings are closed except to members and invited guests. Write to CHIC, P.O. Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808 for information and requirements.

Second & Fourth Saturdays

"On the Scene Night" and *"Fetish Night,"* presented by Marlayna & Melissa at the Queen Mary Show/Lounge, 12449 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. [REDACTED]

Third Saturdays

Powder Puffs of California, Pioneer Room of the Pioneer Best Western Inn, Artesia, CA. 8 pm. Contact P.O. Box 1088 Yorba Linda, CA 92686. [REDACTED]

Club Cherchez La Femme, "Suite Saturday Dance Party" by Marlayna & Tasha at the Executive Suite, 10 pm, 3428 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach [REDACTED]

Fourth Saturdays

Neutral Corner, meets at King's Inn, Hotel Circle, 7:30 pm. Contact P. O. Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112. Contact [REDACTED]

Second Sundays

The Los Angeles Gender Center, monthly support & informational group meeting for the transsexual (FTM & MTF), transgender communities. The Women's Center, 1512 S. Robertson Blvd., LA. Contact The Los Angeles Gender Center, [REDACTED]

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Androgyny, meetings Tuesday nights from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm in Santa Monica, CA; Wednesday nights from 8:00 pm-9:30pm in Riverside, CA. Contact Androgyny, P.O. Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Call between 9:00 am-9:00 pm, mention your call is concerning Androgyny, [REDACTED] (ask for Shirley or Sheilia) or 909-360-5584 (ask for Paula)

♣ **February 3**, *Within the Hearts of Gender Talent/Beauty Contest*, Burbank Holiday Inn

(Transition, continued from page 4)

Gender community politics was big news in 1995. San Francisco named January 30th as "Transgender Rights Day," and inaugurated civil rights protection. However, controversy surrounded the gay community sponsored "Employment Nondiscrimination Act" in Congress, which pointedly excluded the transgendered. The group Transsexual Menace emerged as a polemical advocacy group, and October 3-4 was National Transgender Lobbying Day when they and others went to Washington DC to make our case before many congresspeople.

As Transition Year '95 draws to a close, we face a gnawing question, "Will the mid-1990's be the 'Golden Era,' top be followed by a 'Return to the Closet' in a more conservative next decade?" Or, will acceptance of us grow and opportunities to be more out there increase? Ultimately, this will depend on our own efforts to build the community as well as outreach to other interest groups and the public.

On the National Scene

From Sea to Shining Sea

Feb 22-25, 1996, Texas "T" Party, Dallas, TX. Info: P.O. Box 700742, San Antonio, TX 78270, call [REDACTED]

Mar 24-31, 1996, IFGE "Minnesota Pride Celebration '96", Minneapolis, MN. Contact IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154. call [REDACTED]

♣ **Apr 25-28, 1996**, California Dreamin', San Francisco, CA, Contact P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, [REDACTED]. E-mail Dreamin96@aol.com